

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A method for operation of a transfer printing station of an electrographic printing device, comprising the steps of:

providing a transfer printing station comprising a light-sensitive medium and adhering onto the medium successive toner images by electrostatic forces that are affected via a toner image electrical potential;

providing a transport band and holding respective successive sheet-form recording media by electrostatic forces on the transport band, and transfer printing the toner images from the light-sensitive medium onto the successive sheet-form recording media by use of electrostatic forces that are affected by an electrical transfer printing potential opposite said toner image electrical potential, and at least partially deactivating the electrical transfer printing potential while the light-sensitive medium passes an intervening space lying between two successive recording media sheets;

generating a toner marking on the light-sensitive medium;

with a cleaning station, cleaning off residual toner provided on the light-sensitive medium that is not transfer-printed, and a residual toner reservoir of the cleaning station accepting toner particles cleaned off the light-sensitive medium;

with a cleaning device provided at the transfer band, continuously mechanically loosening residual toner from the transport band, the residual toner falling into a residual toner reservoir associated with the transport band; and

arranging a toner quantity sensor for at least one of the two residual toner reservoirs and emitting to an operator a request to exchange both ~~residential~~ residual toner reservoirs when the toner quantity sensor emits a full signal.

22. (currently amended) A method according to claim 21 wherein a control device is used which, from an image sequence of the electrographic recording process, derives at which times no recording medium lies against the light-sensitive medium and then effects the ~~dissipation~~ deactivating of the transfer printing potential.

23. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21 wherein the transport band has an electrical volume resistance greater than $10^{10} \Omega \text{ cm}$, whereby the transfer printing potential also effects the electrostatic forces to hold the recording medium.

24. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21 wherein the cleaning station comprises at least one of a discharge device charged with alternating current and a mechanically-contacting cleaning element that permanently lies on the light-sensitive medium.

25. (currently amended) A method according to claim claim 24 wherein the mechanically contacting cleaning element comprises a rubber lip.

26. (currently amended) A method according to claim 21 wherein the toner quantity sensor is provided in the cleaning station and emits a "full" signal when a predetermined quantity of toner particles is reached in the residual toner reservoir of the cleaning station.

27. (currently amended) A method according to claim 26 wherein a conveying device is provided via which cleaned-off toner particles are transported into the residual toner reservoir of the cleaning station.

28. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21 wherein the cleaning device provided on the transport band comprises at least one of a flexible blade and a rigid ceramic blade.

29. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21 wherein after emission of the "full" signal of the toner quantity sensor, both the residual toner reservoir of the cleaning station of the light-sensitive medium and the residual toner reservoir of the transport band are at least one of emptied and exchanged for an empty reservoir.

30. (currently amended) A method according to claim 21 wherein a rotating photoconductor drum whose circumferential velocity ~~given~~ during transfer printing is substantially the same as a transport speed of the transport band is used as the light-sensitive medium.'

31. (currently amended) A transfer printing station for an electrographic printing device, comprising:

a light-sensitive medium on which successive toner images adhere by electrostatic forces affected via a toner image electrical potential;

a transport band on which successive sheet-form recording media are held for transfer printing of the toner images from the light-sensitive medium onto the sheet-form recording media, the recording media being held by electrostatic forces such that the transfer printing occurs by electrostatic forces ~~effected~~ affected by an electrical transfer printing potential opposite the potential of the toner image;

a control device via which the electrical transfer printing potential is at least partially deactivated during an intervening space lying between two successive recording media passing the light-sensitive medium;

a cleaning station cleaning off residual toner provided on the light-sensitive medium that is not transfer-printed, and a residual toner reservoir of the cleaning station accepting toner particles cleaned off the light-sensitive medium;

a cleaning device which continuously mechanically loosens residual toner from the transport band and which is provided at the transport band, the loosened residual toner falling into a residual toner reservoir associated with the transport band; and

a toner quantity sensor arranged for at least one of the two residual toner reservoirs, and a request to exchange both residual toner reservoirs being emitted to the operator when the toner quantity sensor emits a full signal.

32. (previously presented) A transfer printing station according to claim 31 wherein from an image sequence of the electrographic recording process, the control device derives at which times no recording medium lies against the light-sensitive medium and then effects the deactivation of the transfer printing potential.

33. (previously presented) A transfer printing station according to claim 31 wherein the transport band has an electrical volume resistance greater than $10^{10} \Omega$

cm, whereby the transfer printing potential also effects the electrostatic forces to hold the recording medium.

34. (previously presented) A transfer printing station according to claim 31 wherein the cleaning station comprises at least one of a discharge device charged with at alternating current and a mechanically-contacting cleaning element that permanently lies on the light-sensitive medium.

35. (previously presented) A transfer printing station according to claim 34 wherein the mechanically-contacting cleaning element comprises a rubber lip.

36. (currently amended) A transfer printing station according to claim 31 wherein the toner quantity sensor is provided in the cleaning station and emits a full signal when a predetermined quantity of toner particles is reached in the residual toner reservoir of the cleaning station.

37. (currently amended) A transfer printing station according to claim 36 wherein a conveying device is provided via which cleaned-off toner particles are transported into the residual toner reservoir of the cleaning station.

38. (previously presented) A transfer printing station according to claim 31 wherein the cleaning device provided on the transport band comprises at least one of a flexible blade and a rigid ceramic blade.

39. (previously presented) A transfer printing station according to claim 31 wherein both residual toner reservoirs are designed such that after emission of the full signal of the toner quantity sensor, both the residual toner reservoir of the cleaning station of the light-sensitive medium and the residual toner reservoir of the transport band are one of emptied and exchanged for an empty reservoir.

40. (currently amended) A transfer printing station according to claim 31 wherein a rotating photoconductor drum, whose circumferential velocity ~~given~~ during transfer printing is the same as a transport speed of the transport band, is used as a light-sensitive medium.

41. (cancelled)

42. (currently amended) A transfer printing station for an electrographic printing device, comprising:

a light-sensitive medium on which toner images are provided by electrostatic forces affected via a toner image electrical potential;

a transport band on which successive sheet-form recording media are held for transfer printing of the toner images from the light-sensitive medium onto the sheet-form recording media, the recording media being held by electrostatic forces such that the transfer printing occurs by electrostatic forces affected by an electrical transfer printing potential opposite the potential of the toner image;

a control device via which the electrical transfer printing potential is at least reduced during an intervening space lying between two successive recording media passing the light-sensitive medium;

a cleaning station cleaning off residual toner provided on the light-sensitive medium that is not transfer-printed, and a residual toner reservoir of the cleaning station accepting toner particles cleaned off the light-sensitive medium;

a cleaning device which continuously mechanically loosens residual toner from the transport band and which is provided at the transport band, the loosened residual toner falling into a residual toner reservoir associated with the transport band; and

a toner quantity sensor for at least one of the two residual toner reservoirs, and providing an operator an indication to exchange both residual toner reservoirs.